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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-29, and 32-39 are pending in the instant application. Claims 21, 25, 37, 38, and 39 have been amended to correct typographic errors and/or to further clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendments, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Office Action acknowledges that claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-20, 23, 24, 26-29, and 32-36 are allowable.

Claims 21, 22, 25, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Office Action asserts that the claims do not define any structural or functional interrelationships permitting the computer program's functionality to be realized, and that the claims lack necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture.

Claims 21, 25, 37, 38, and 39 have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein, and in particular to illustrate the relationship between the claimed subject matter and the physical elements of a computer. For instance, claim 21 is amended to recite a machine readable storage medium stored with an object to be processed by an information processing apparatus *including a computer processor*, wherein, *inter alia*, said encrypted protective object contains a procedure capable of terminating a process operation *of the computer processor* when there is invalidity in one or more protect codes contained in an executable module with said protective object incorporated therein. Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 25, 37, and 39. Likewise, the preamble of claim 38 has been amended, and dependent claims 22 and 38 also recite the structure claimed in their respective base claims. It is therefore respectfully
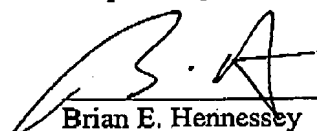
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submitted that each of the rejected claims defines a structural interrelationship permitting a computer program's functionality to be realized. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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